

Remarks

Claims 1-14, 17-31, and 34-46 are pending. Claims 1-14, 17-31, and 34-46 stand rejected. Claims 1, 17-18, 21-28, and 34 are amended by this response. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request allowance of claims 1-14, 17-31, and 34-46.

Objections

The Examiner objected to the language on page 12, lines 16-17 stating "CLAIMS: We claim:". The Applicants can find nothing in the statutes or the rules making this language in the specification improper (*see* 37 CFR § 1.75). The Applicants may be willing to make the amendments to the specification, if the Examiner finds support for his assertion that this language is improper and the Examiner cites such support.

§ 102 Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-14 and 17-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent number 6,169,738 (Sriram). The Applicants reviewed Sriram and submit that Sriram does not teach all of the elements of independent claims 1 and 17.

First, Sriram does not teach a communication hub as described in claim 1 of the pending application. Claim 1, as amended, describes a customer premises communication hub. The call processor (125) in Sriram (the device that performs call admission) is *not* part of the customer premises (*see* Sriram, FIG. 4). Sriram does not specifically teach that the call processor is part of the customer premises, and Sriram indicates that the call processor is outside of the customer premises. For instance, FIG. 4 in Sriram illustrates a PBX (105) coupled to a call processor (125) by a facility (106), such as a DS-1. The PBX is a device commonly used by customers to connect a plurality of phones in the customer premises with a communication network outside of the customer premises. Sriram did not put the call processor inside the PBX, which indicates that Sriram did not intend the call processor to be part of the customer premises. Also, Sriram describes the facility between the PBX and the call processor to be a DS-1. A DS-1 link is a commonly used by customers (needing higher bandwidth) to connect a PBX in the customer premises with a communication network outside of the customer premises. Thus, Sriram indicates that the call processor (125) is outside of the customer premises and no where suggests

or teaches that the call processor (125) be implemented in devices on the customer premises.

Second, Sriram does not teach a communication hub configured to operate as described in claim 1 of the pending application. Claim 1 describes a communication hub having:

“a silence suppression block configured to compute a silence suppression gain in response to an incoming call request”, and

“a call admission block configured to control access to a communication network based on the silence suppression gain for the incoming call request”.

To paraphrase, the silence suppression block computes a silence suppression gain and the call admission block provides call admission to the network (i.e., controls access to the network) based on the silence suppression gain. Sriram does not teach this.

Sriram describes a call processor (125) that provides call admission to an ATM network (100). (see Sriram, FIG. 4). To provide call admission, the call processor first determines an initial bandwidth for calls (B_0) (see Sriram, column 8, lines 41-54). The initial bandwidth represents an estimated bandwidth for a call. If the call processor then receives a call, the call processor checks if the spare bandwidth (W) on the facility (106) is greater than the initial bandwidth for a call (see Sriram, column 8, line 63 to column 9, line 6). If the spare bandwidth is not greater than the initial bandwidth, then the call is rejected. Otherwise, the call is admitted. Thus, in Sriram, *call admission* in the call processor depends on whether the spare bandwidth on a facility is greater than an estimated bandwidth (i.e., initial bandwidth) for the call.

Conversely, call admission in the communication hub of claim 1 of the pending application depends on different factors. For call admission in claim 1, the silence suppression block first computes a *silence suppression gain* and the call admission block *controls access* to a communication network based on the silence suppression gain. Sriram does not teach computing a silence suppression gain to provide call admission. As previously stated, Sriram provides call admission based on whether the spare bandwidth on a facility is greater than an estimated bandwidth for a call. The estimated bandwidth for a call as provided in Sriram is not a silence suppression gain as provided in the pending application. Thus, Sriram does not teach the communication hub in claim 1.

Further, the Examiner, in the Office action on page 3, rejects the silence suppression

block of claim 1 based on the teaching in column 6, lines 58 to column 7, line 8 in Sriram. The Examiner is mistaken in this rejection. The silence suppression block in claim 1 is for *call admission*. The section in Sriram cited by the Examiner describes an AAL2 processor (130) that performs silence suppression on already admitted calls. (see Sriram, FIG. 4, column 6, lines 58 to column 7, line 8). Surely the Examiner can see the difference in performing silence suppression on already admitted calls, and computing a silence suppression gain to determine if calls should be admitted.

Also, the Examiner, in the Office action on page 3, rejects the call admission block of claim 1 based on the teaching in column 7, lines 9-22 in Sriram. The Examiner is mistaken in this rejection. Again, the call admission block in claim 1 is for *call admission*. The section in Sriram cited by the Examiner describes an ATM processor (135) that forms ATM cells from AAL2 packets on already admitted calls. (see Sriram, FIG. 4, column 7, lines 9-22). This section does not even mention call admission.

Based on the above remarks, the Applicants submit that claim 1 is novel and non-obvious over Sriram. The same arguments apply for independent claim 17, and the claims dependent on claims 1 and 17.

§ 103 Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 34-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of Sriram. The Applicants submit that claims 34-46 are novel and non-obvious over Sriram for the same reasons presented for claims 1 and 17.

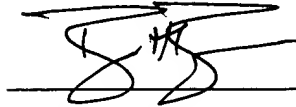
Conclusion

Based on the above remarks, the Applicants submit that claims 1-14, 17-31, and 34-46 are allowable. There may be additional reasons in support of patentability, but such reasons are omitted in the interests of brevity. The Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-14, 17-31, and 34-46.

Any fees may be charged to deposit account 21-0765.

Respectfully submitted,

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